INSTITUTION OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS.—The general meeting of the members of this institution took place on Wednesday week, at Birmingham, Mr. Robert Stephenson, M.P. president, in the chair, when papers were read, by Mr. Samuel H. Blackwell, of Dudley, on the "Arrangement of the Materials in the Blast Furnace, and the Application of the Waste Gases;" by Mr. William A. Adams, of Birmingham, on "Improvements in the Construction and Materials of Railway Waggons;" and by Mr. Paul R. Hodge, of London, on an "Improved Self-lubricating Axle-box for Railway Engines and Carriages," and on a "Self-acting Spring Crossing-point for Railways," both being American inventions. At the close of the meeting specimens were exhibited of a new construction of railway chair, by Mr. M. Conochie, of Wednesbury.

STREET-LIGHTING.—I was gratified recently by seeing in the parish of Marylebone the use of the simple mode adopted in Paris instead of the old-fashioned ladder and lantern, involving delay and risk both to the lamp-lighter and the public. In Paris the lamps are lit by means of a small lamp with a bold flame *inserted* in the end of a pole about seven feet long. The lamp-lighter passes it through the bottom of the lamp (an aperture being expressly left for it) and by this means applies it to the burner, the top being inclosed in the lower part of the shaft, and access thereto is provided by a small door, which is, of course, kept locked. The rapidity with which the street lamps in Paris are lit reminds one of the tale of Abdallah and the chandelier in the "Arabian Nights." A short time since, being in the Palais Royal, I was much struck with the rapidity of this lamp-lighting process. Our French neighbours have many good things we should do well to copy. *Verily our omnibus masters are slow to learn!*—W.

VICTORIA PARK.—A memorial to the Commissioners of Woods and Forests from the inhabitants of Hackney is in course of signature, praying the formation of the park approaches: it is very important to this improving district that the approaches should be formed: ten long years have passed since the park was commenced to be formed, and *yet* there is not a road that a gentleman's vehicle can drive over to the park. Two other metropolitan parks are promised: it is to be hoped that the approaches to them will be formed simultaneously with the parks: as a financial question, if any of the land is *to be let for building purposes*, it would seem to be bad policy to form the approaches last.

ELEMENTARY DRAWING SCHOOLS.—The school to take earliest advantage of the recent minute of the Board of Trade, enabling Eleemosynary schools to purchase drawing copies, models, and examples, at half the prime cost, has been the Queen's School at Windsor, and on Tuesday evening last, St. Thomas's parochial school, of more than 500 persons, children and adults, directed by the Rev. W. Rogers, was the first to inaugurate the new system of drawing classes instituted by the Department of Practical Art.

TO STAY THE WOOD-WORM.—A correspondent, in yours of the 9th ult. desires to know how the ravages of the wood-worm are to be arrested. To which I would reply, that a hot solution of corrosive sublimate, well and *repeatedly* brushed into the tie-beams and rafters, would certainly not only destroy the insects, but preserve the timber itself for a long period of years from further destruction. The operator must not let the material wet his hands, and the sublimate is a virulent poison.

H. McC.

BUILDERS' DIFFERENCES.—The following is a list of the tenders for pulling down and rebuilding some coachmakers' shops in the Portland-road. Mr. William Bush, architect.

	Allowed for old materials.		
R. Stevens	£30	. .	£489
Pollock and M'Mellum	27	...	565
J. Harding	43	.	567
J. Heide	15	.	475
G. Roberts	35	....	462
Rowland and T. Everest	15	....	415
H. W. Cooper	25	...	400
G. Day (accepted)	25	....	360

YORKSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.—On Thursday, in last week, a meeting of the above society was held in York, Archdeacon Churton in the chair. After discussing the annual reports, &c. two papers were read, one "A Historic Sketch of Pontefract Castle," by the Rev. R. Eaton Batty; and the other by Mr. W. H. Dykes, architect, "On certain Mural Paintings recently discovered in Bickering Church." It was announced that during the course of next year, in addition to the annual meeting at York, public meetings of the society would be held at Richmond and Selby, for the reading of papers and examination of the architectural antiquities of these neighbourhoods.

THE SURREY ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—In addition to other measures for the promotion of the interests of this new society, the committee, we observe, propose to establish a library and reading-room to be maintained by voluntary contributions of one guinea annually and ten guineas for life members, aided by occasional grants from the funds of the society; and they also intend to issue a quarterly journal devoted to subjects of antiquarian interest connected with Surrey, and to be free of charge to members. Surrey may well support the interest of such a journal. It possesses many objects of archæological interest in Southwark, Lambeth, Kingston, Richmond, Chertsey, Runnymede, Farnham, Guildford, and elsewhere.

A MONUMENTAL STONE TO HOOD, THE POET.—It has been resolved by some members of the Whittington Club, on a suggestion, we believe, which originated with Miss Cook in her *Journal*, to erect a memorial stone over the obscure grave of Thomas Hood. Upwards of 120*l.* have been collected, a small mite of it from poor needlewomen, and we hope that the idea will be sensibly as well as successfully carried out.

A NEW APPLICATION OF STEAM.—At the Colney Hatch Lunatic Asylum the resident engineer has invented an apparatus substituting steam for the red hot heaters hitherto used in getting up borders, &c. of the ladies' various wearing apparel. It is simple and effectual in its operation. It always maintains an uniform heat, and it is incapable of scorching the fine material, which requires great precaution when red hot heaters are used.

REPORTED RISE IN PRICE OF CANADIAN TIMBER.—We have heard it stated, says the *Liverpool Albion*, by several interested in the trade, that the scarcity of Canadian timber, especially for building purposes, is already beginning to be felt by a considerable rise in price. This is ascribed to the circumstance of so many vessels being diverted from the staple traffic of the St. Lawrence, in order to convey emigrants to Australia and the States.

VENTILATION.—With reference to a recent "View of Ventilation" in your pages, the writer should have 'followed up his advantage' by conducting the cooling carbonic acid into the rain-pipes of the building, adapted by enamelling or otherwise to this purpose, or into proper ducts specially provided, and leading down into the drains and sewers, so as not to leave it to pour out of any nostril-shaped or other opening above the level of the interiors just ventilated; otherwise it would only pollute the pure air immediately adjoining the building, and whence the interior is to be immediately and again and again supplied. The adoption of such an addendum to his view, I think, would render it theoretically complete. There is the clear sight of ingenuity in this view. It is just what close attention to the subject naturally suggests, and it leaves far behind an immense deal of quasi-learned doctoring to which ventilation has of late been subject. The true secret of the management of carbonic acid gas, as generated from human lungs, is clearly to view it as a fluid requiring drainage upwards, in the first place, just as much, and in much the same way too, as rain requires it downwards. I would only insist that as it cools, and it does that very speedily, it becomes as necessary to view it in the light of a heavy palpable fluid, requiring drainage downwards as decidedly as it ever required it upwards while still warm from lungs or other furnaces; and, moreover, that when cold it is a much more condensed and hence more deadly agency than while warm or hot.—D.

TENDERS

For the erection of a public-house and four shops and houses adjoining on the east side of the Ledbury-road Kensington. Mr. W. King, architect:—

Porter	£1,980
Maderow	1,695
Glenn	1,589
Lawrence	1,513
Jackson	1,497
Bishop	1,469
Barnes accepted	1,345

For two houses at Osterley, for Mr. George Manners: Mr. Woodthorpe, architect:—

Sanders and Woolcott	£1,236 0 0
Locke and Nesham	1,140 0 0
Bowick	1,131 0 0
Browne	1,120 0 0
Hoskens	1 15 0

For alterations and additions at the Duke of York and house adjoining, in Vauxhall road, for Messrs. Elliot and Co. Mr. A. Stoner, architect:—

Corly	£1,067
Gammon	1,023
Patrick and Son	980

For building proposed public-house at Shepherd's-bush, for Mr. Rogers, under the same architect:—

Lawrence and Sons	£1,472
Patrick and Son	1,400
Gammon	1,387

For a new factory, boiler, shed, chimney, &c. for Mr. Thomas Adams, Chesterfield-road, Derby. Mr. George Hall, architect. Quantities supplied:—

E. W. Sams	£2,300
C. Moody	1,585
Winterton	1,480
T. Green	1,379

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"E H." "T B M" (it depends on "rate" of building &c. &c.). "A Builder" the chimney of the Smethwick soap manufactory, Birmingham, is erected. "R D." "C P." "E G M." (not our custom). "T" should send name. "W M." "J H." "F D." "F W." "M. nac. F." "G. W." (thanks). "H." "Old Practitioner." "Maps." "J. P. L." "W and Son." "Builder's Clerk" (Hereditary bondsmen, &c. &c.). "W P." "A. W. M." "S C F."

"*Books and Addresses.*"—We have not time to point out books or find addresses.

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